

Illinois Arts Council

Your state agency
for the arts

JUL 31 2001



George H. Ryan
Governor

Lura Lynn Ryan
Illinois First Lady

Shirley R. Madigan
Chairman

Rhoda A. Pierce
Executive Director

The Illinois Arts Council (IAC) is your state agency for the arts. The agency has been in existence since 1965, founded in the same year as the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The mission of the IAC is to serve the diverse people and communities of Illinois with quality, accessible arts programming, through engaging in active support and development of Illinois artists, arts organizations, educational institutions and communities.

The Arts Council is a taxpayer-supported agency, funded primarily by an annual appropriation from the Illinois General Assembly through the state's annual budget process, supplemented by additional support from the NEA.

The Illinois Arts Council strives to serve you by ensuring that you have opportunities to experience arts activities of high artistic excellence.

By providing financial and technical support to Illinois artists and not-for-profit organizations, the agency supports their efforts to bring quality arts programming to your community.

The Illinois Arts Council...

- ◆ can help to find and fund an artist to engage in an artist residency event at your child's school or at your local library, senior center, park district, place of worship or community center.
- ◆ can help your child discover his/her creativity and build self-esteem.
- ◆ can help your community enjoy performances by musicians, dancers, storytellers, puppeteers, ethnic and folk artists.
- ◆ can help preserve artistic and cultural traditions such as quilting, duck decoy carving, basket-weaving, Battenburg lace-making -- and much more.
- ◆ can help to support the arts activities already 'all around you' in your community as well as to help develop new ones.

Dedicated volunteer panelists have the difficult job of reviewing applications for grants and making funding recommendations. These peer panelists are professionals having knowledge of the discipline area they are evaluating.

An advisory council, whose members are appointed by the Governor, has the responsibility for the final grants decision-making. The council meets tri-annually for the purpose of voting on the panelists' funding recommendations as well as to discuss and vote on any recommended policy and procedural changes to the agency's programs.

A full time professional staff oversees the various programs of the agency. These programs range from direct funding to individual Illinois artists and not-for-profit organizations to opportunities for local schools and school districts and other community organizations to apply for assistance to utilize 'roster artists' to add dimension to their existing arts programming.

The state first celebrated Illinois Arts Week in 1978.

Since then, the Illinois Arts Council has requested the Governor to proclaim one week each year as Illinois Arts Week, set aside to focus attention on the importance of the arts and how the arts daily enrich our lives.

Governor's Awards for the Arts, also initiated in 1978,

is celebrated biennially for the purpose of recognizing outstanding contributors to the arts. Awards are presented to an individual artist, an arts organization, a municipality and a corporation. A special recognition award may also be given to individuals who, over their lifetimes, have given immeasurably to the arts.

The Hybrid Muse, a bronze sculpture, is the Governor's Award. This statue was commissioned by the Illinois Arts Council Foundation in 1985 to commemorate the agency's 20th anniversary. Created by Illinois pre-eminent artist, Richard Hunt, the Hybrid Muse has come to represent excellence in the arts. A stylized version of the statue is used for the IAC logo and may be seen on the front of this brochure.

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Visit the IAC web site at
www.state.il.us/agency/iac

The agency produces a tri-annual
newsletter, the *Heartland*, and the
annual *Illinois Art Fair Directory*
which lists art and craft fairs taking
place throughout Illinois during the year.
Both are available free of charge to
anyone desiring to receive them. Most
publications are also on the web site.

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